8. The training of veterinary personnel in preparedness, control and containment started in October 2005 at regional level is continuing. The training was shifted to State level basis by the Government of India from September 2006. More than 30% of the veterinary workforce under employment of Government has been trained as Master-Trainers for further field trainings.

9. A National workshop on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza was organized at Pune during May, 2007 and recently a Regional Workshop of the North-Eastern States (Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal) was organized at Kolkata by Government of India from 26-28th July 2007.

National Bamboo Mission Programme

598. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far it is a fact that Government are about to launch National Bamboo Mission Programme after China's success;

(b) if so, whether this mission will be able to generate employment opportunities especially in Assam where the availability of Bamboo is plenty;

(c) whether Government have developed the necessary infrastructures to fulfil the mission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has launched the National Bamboo Mission Programme in the country during 2006-07, including Assam. The Mission is envisaged to generate 64.1 million man days of work in the plantation and nursery sectors in the country. Besides this, there will be employment generation in both skilled and unskilled segments in the handicraft sector in the States, including Assam.

(c) and (d) At the central level, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has constituted National Apex Committee, National Steering Committee, Working sub-Groups, National Bamboo Cell and Bamboo Technical Support Group to implement and monitor the progress of National Bamboo Mission.

In so far as State of Assam is concerned, the State Level Bamboo Steering Committee has been constituted to implement the National Bamboo Mission in the State. The Forest Development Agency (FDAs) have also been identified for the development of plantation and nurseries in the Forest Area. However, the Bamboo Development Agency (BDAs) are in the process of formation to look after the implementation works in the Non-Forest Area in the State.

National action plan for farmers

599. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any national action plan for farmers of the country to save them from drought/floods/rising cost of inputs, etc.;